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BRIEF NOTES

A Library of Ancient Inscriptions

The Yale University Press has announced the preparation by Semitic scholars of a Series to be known as 'A Library of Ancient Semitic Inscriptions' in transliteration and translation.

The tentative list of subjects and authors given below shows that it will be distinctively an American enterprise. It is fully expected that several of the volumes will appear in 1920.

North Semitic Inscriptions: C. C. Torrey, Yale Univ.

South Arabian Inscriptions: J. A. Montgomery, Univ. of Pennsylvania.

Sumerian and Akkadian Royal Inscriptions: G. A. Barton, Bryn Mawr Coll.

Inscriptions of Gudea: I. M. Price, Univ. of Chicago.

Babylonian Royal Inscriptions: T. J. Meek, Meadville Seminary.

Assyrian Historical Inscriptions (To Ashur-nirari): D. D. Luckenbill, Univ. of Chicago.

Assyrian Historical Inscriptions (Tiglath-Pileser IV to Sennacherib): A. T. Olmstead, Univ. of Illinois.

Assyrian Historical Inscriptions (Esarhaddon to end): J. Hoschander, Dropsie Coll.

Sumerian Hymns and Ritualistic Texts. Part 1: J. D. Prince, Columbia Univ.

Sumerian Hymns and Ritualistic Texts. Part 2: M. Jastrow and H. F. Lutz, Univ. of Pennsylvania.

Sumerian Cosmogony and Lamentation Texts: E. Chiera, Univ. of Pennsylvania.

Gilgamesh Epic and Other Assyro-Babylonian Legends: P. Haupt, Johns Hopkins Univ.

Tammuz and Ishtar Texts: W. F. Albright, Johns Hopkins Univ.

Omen and Astrological Texts: M. Jastrow, Univ. of Pennsylvania.

Incantation and Medical Texts: H. F. Lutz, Univ. of Pennsylvania.

Babylonian Hymns and Prayers to the Gods: M. I. Hussey, Mount Holyoke Coll.

Letters of the Early Babylonians: L. Waterman, Univ. of Michigan.

Amarna Letters: S. A. B. Mercer, Western Theological Seminary.
Assyrian and Neo-Babylonian Letters: S. C. Ylvisaker, Luther Coll.

Babylonian Boundary Stones, Charters and Grants: W. J. Hinke, Auburn Seminary.

Sumerian Contracts: C. E. Keiser, Yale Univ.

First Dynasty Contracts: E. M. Grice, Yale Univ.

Assyrian Contracts: G. S. Duncan, American Univ.

Neo-Babylonian Contracts: R. P. Dougherty, Goucher Coll.

Contracts of the Persian and Greek Periods and Legal Codes:
 A. T. Clay, Yale Univ.

Ascalabotes fascicularis in old Babylonian medicine

K 9283 is proof of old Babylonian applied zoology. It is a fragment bearing the particular Babylonian writing of three columns in mutilated condition. The reverse bears a few signs of the third column. It resembles medieval European texts of similar contents. The medieval texts mentioned principally in this regard: mad dog, snake, gecko (*stellio*) and spider. The spider is an evident substitute for the Babylonian scorpion. The Babylonian superstitious texts deal much with the appearance and locomotion of scorpions.

K 9283 contains in the first column remedies. The second column tells of the venomous animals, against which they may be useful. The third column gives the advice for application.

The lines 1 to 4 and 11 show the mad dog, the lines 5 to 11 the snake and 14 to 16 the scorpion. The lines 12 to 13 concern evidently the gecko (*Ascalabotes fascicularis*). The cuneiform sign is the Sumerian *MIR*. It is pronounced in Accadian language: *agû*, 'crown,' *izzu*, 'powerful' and *agâgu*, 'to be angry.' The animal may have been called *igigu* in Accadian and *mir* in Sumerian. The classic Romans called it *stellio*. The medieval language of southern Europe adopted the name *gecko* loaned from the Arabians. *Gecko* is apparently a derivative of supposed Accadian *igigu*. *Igigu*, i. e. the choleric animal, was a very fitting name for this animal, which is very excitable and is ready to fight with others of his species as well as with other beings. The hurt of a gecko was called 'stroke of the gecko.' This is exactly what the old Romans and medieval people believed; the gecko was believed to be very venomous and able